

# PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE: PRESIDENT CARTER AND THE ENERGY CRISIS

Grades 8-12









### **Program Overview**



"When we try to pick out anything by itself, we find it hitched to everything else in the Universe."

—John Muir —



**Above:** Teddy Roosevelt, John Muir, Gifford Pinchot and others pose in front of a Giant Sequoyah Tree (National Archives Identifier: 2132678)



### **Program Overview**

#### **How Did We Get Here?**

- What circumstances created the Energy Crisis?
- What connections can be made between the Cold War and the Energy Crisis?
- How did the U.S. role in the Middle East impact the crisis?

#### **President Carter's Response**

- What Constitutional solutions were available to President Carter to address the Energy Crisis?
- How did President Carter engage the American people in solving the Energy Crisis?
- What impact did other crises have on the response to the Energy Crisis?

#### **Civics Connections**

- How effective were the three branches of government in working together to solve this crisis?
- How would you define the relationship between our nation's domestic and foreign policies?
- Further Inquiry

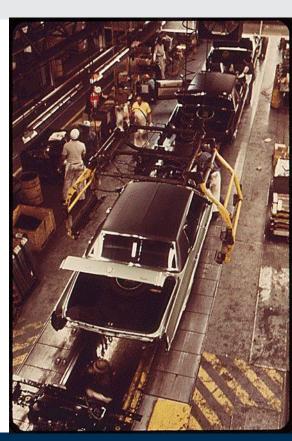


#### What were the circumstances of the Energy Crisis?

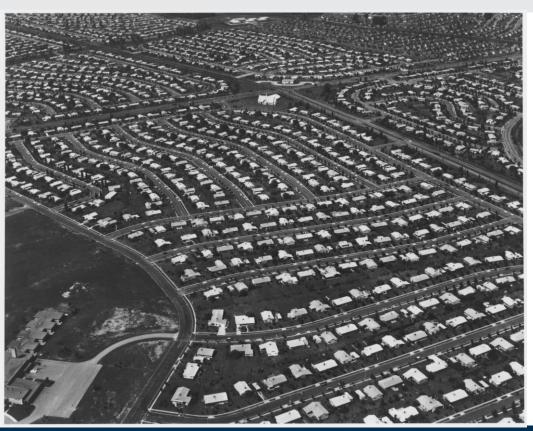
- Supply & Demand of Energy Post-WWII
  - o Population Boom
  - Exponential economic growth
- United States Foreign Policy Post-WWII
  - Cold War with Soviet Union
  - Middle East Peace Process

**Further Inquiry:** Learn more from the National Archives about how <u>The Marshall Plan</u> supported U.S. foreign policy and its Cold War allies following WWII

**Right:** Car bodies being dropped onto frames on the Cadillac assembly line, 6/1973 (National Archives Identifier: 549724)







#### **United States 1940-1980**

- Population increases 71%
- Real Gross Domestic Product increases 508%
- Heavy reliance on cheap fossil fuels/foreign oil for expanding population and economy; U.S. imported 25% of OPEC's oil

**Left:** After World War II, the number and density of suburban housing developments, such as the one shown in this aerial photo, increased dramatically. Postwar prosperity and a "baby boom" fueled suburban sprawl (National Archives Identifier: 595663)







# What connections can be made between the Cold War and the Energy Crisis?

- U.S. and Soviet Union engage in Cold War by proxy through Arab-Israeli conflicts
- U.S. efforts to counter Soviet influence in Middle East results in Arab Oil Embargo 1973-1974; cost of oil goes up 350%

Far Left: Civil Defense Poster, 1953 (National Archives

Identifier: 594366)

**Left:** A sign of the Energy Crisis, 5/1973 (National Archives

Identifier: 550088)

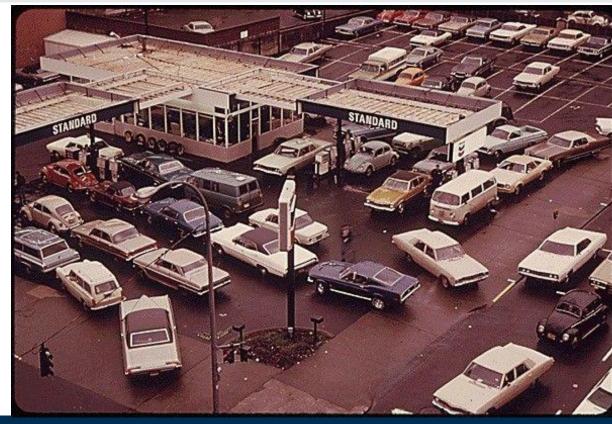


#### **Impact on Daily Life**

- What aspects of our daily lives depend on the availability of energy?
- What industries do you think would have been most affected?
- How can society be discouraged/supplemented from using imported oil?

**Right:** Bird's eye view of an average gas station in Portland, Oregon, 12/1973 (National Archives

Identifier: <u>555457</u>)





## What Constitution-based solutions were available to President Carter to address the Energy Crisis?

- Congressional Legislation (<u>Article I, Section 1</u>)
  - Subject to approval or veto by the President
- Executive Action (<u>Article II, Section 1</u>)
  - Powers not relegated to other branches, nor explicitly denied to the Executive
- Diplomacy (<u>Article II, Section 2</u>)
  - Presidential appointment of U.S. Ambassadors
  - Power to make treaties with foreign nations (requires 2/3 Senate approval)

**Right:** The Preamble and Article I of the United States Constitution (National Archives Identifier: 1667751)

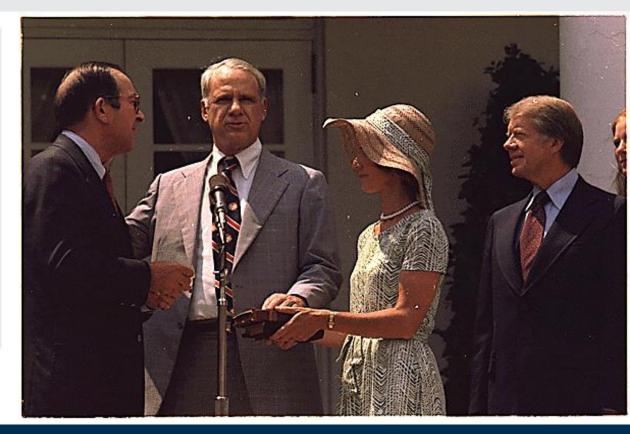




# Congressional Legislation Approved by Carter

- Emergency Natural Gas Act, 1977
- <u>Department of Energy</u>
   <u>Organization Act</u>, 1977
- National Energy Act, 1978
- Energy Security Act, 1980

**Right:** Attorney General Griffin Bell swears in Secretary of Energy James Schlesinger with Mrs. James Schlesinger and Jimmy Carter, 8/5/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 175828)







President Jimmy Carter, 01/26/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 173490)

#### **Carter's Executive Actions on Energy**

**Executive Order 11969:** Administration of the Emergency Natural Gas Act of 1977 (2/2/1977)

**Executive Order 12003:** Relating to Energy Policy and Conservation (7/20/1977)

**Executive Order 12009:** Providing for the effectuation of the Department of Energy Organization Act (9/13/1977)

**Executive Order 12038:** Relating to certain functions transferred to the Secretary of Energy by the Department of Energy Organization Act (2/3/1978)

**Executive Order 12142:** The Alaska Natural Gas Transportation System (6/21/1979)

**Executive Order 12185:** Conservation of Petroleum and Natural Gas (12/17/1979)

**Executive Order 12231:** Strategic Petroleum Reserve (8/4/1980)

**Executive Order 12235:** Management of Natural Gas Supplies Emergencies (9/3/1980)



# How did Carter engage the American People?

- Fireside Chats
- "Wear a sweater"
- Use of Pop Culture
- Establishes National Energy Education Day

**Right:** "The Battle of the Energy Drainers!" comic book created by Marvel in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Energy (Carter Library) **Far Right:** Sweater worn by President Carter during a Fireside Chat on Energy, 2/2/1977 (Carter Library)





#### Promotion of Renewable and Domestic Energy Sources

- Solar Panels
- Wind Turbines
- Ethanol
- Coal
- Natural Gas
- Nuclear Power

Learn more about the installation of solar panels on the roof of the Carter Library

**Right:** President Carter shows off solar panels installed on the White House roof during his administration (Carter Library)







#### Carter and the Nuclear Age

- Studies reactor technology and nuclear physics in submarine school after graduating from U.S. Naval Academy
- Assisted in the design and development of nuclear propulsion plants for naval vessels
- Led first nuclear meltdown response team in history at Chalk River Laboratories in Ontario, Canada, 1952

**Left:** Lieutenant James Earl "Jimmy" Carter in main control room of USS K-1 (Naval History and Heritage Command)





DECLASSIFIED
E.O.12958, Sec.3.6
FER PLANT NO. 1 ARE N.C. 34-1
V. NARS. DATE 714-16-7

October 21 1977

Dear President Sadat,

When we met privately in

The White House, I was deeply

impressed and grateful for

your promise to me that, at

your promise to me that, at

court on your support when

obstacles asse in our common

search for peace in the Modelle

East. We have reached such

a moment and I need your

help.

Secretary Vance has provided charifications to many of your questions regarding the procedures without of these working paper. There is adequate flexibility in the language to accommodate your Concerne.

THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

The time has now come to move forward, and your lawly public endorsement of our approach is extremely important - perhaps vital- in advancing all parties to Gueda. This is a pusmal appeal for your support.

My very best wishes to spee you and your family.

If we and your family.

If we friend,

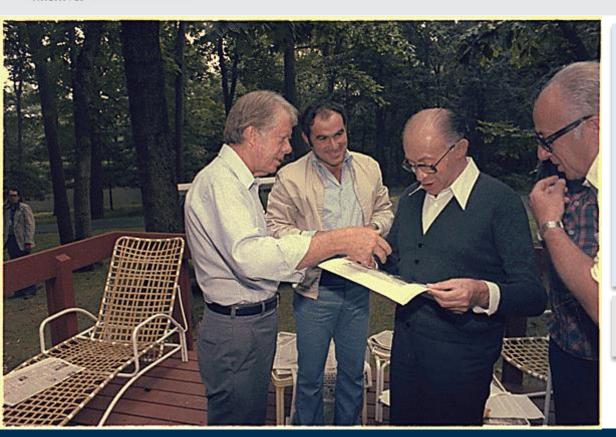
#### **Diplomacy**

- Alaska Natural Gas
   Pipeline Agreement with
   Canada
- Mexican Natural Gas Agreement
- Middle East Peace Process
  - Camp David Accords

**Left:** Letter written by Jimmy Carter to Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, 10/21/1977 (Carter Library)







#### **Camp David Accords**

- Ends four decades of war between Egypt and Israel, normalizes diplomatic relations
- Israeli withdrawal from Sinai Peninsula
- Bolsters U.S. relationship with Egypt, erodes Soviet influence in Middle East
- Mitigates future Arab-Israeli conflicts that destabilize global energy markets

Learn more about the role of the <u>CIA and</u> <u>Intelligence</u> in the Camp David Accords

**Left:** Jimmy Carter and Menachem Begin with members of the Israeli delegation at Camp David, 09/17/1978 (National Archives Identifier: 181417)



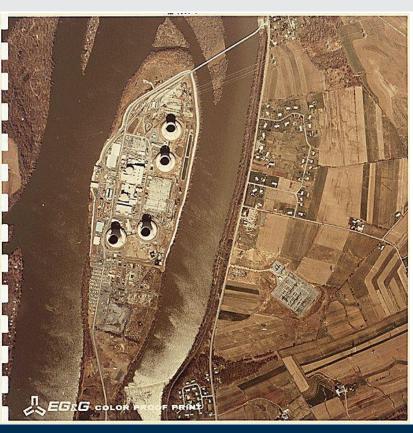
#### The Environmental Movement

- 1950s-60s: Heightened public concerns about deteriorating city air, natural areas littered with debris, and urban water supplies contaminated with dangerous impurities
- 1970: President Nixon creates
   Environmental Protection Agency
   to establish national guidelines
   and enforce them

**Right:** Children Play in Yard of Ruston Home, while Tacoma Smelter Stack Showers Area with Arsenic and Lead Residue, 8/1972 (National Archives Identifier: 545246)







#### **Three Mile Island Disaster, March 1979**

- Partial core meltdown in one reactor, subsequent radiation leak
- Result of mechanical failure and human error
- Turns public opinion against nuclear energy, no new plants built in U.S. since; still accounts for 20% of energy supply

**Left:** Aerial view of Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant in Middletown, Pennsylvania, 4/10/1979 (National Archives Identifier: 540012)

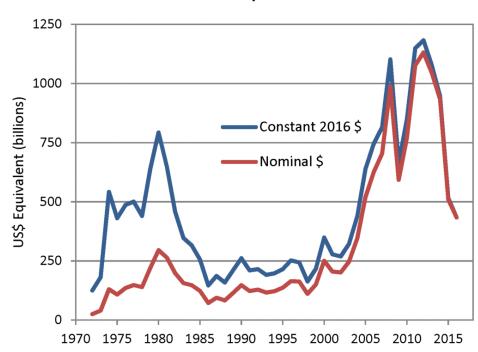


# Iranian Revolution/<u>Hostage</u> <u>Crisis in Iran</u>, November 1979

- Pro-American Shah flees, seeks medical treatment in U.S. after Ayatollah Khomeini takes power
- 52 Americans taken hostage in response, held 444 days
- Nationalized Iranian Oil severely reduces production, cost per barrel soars

**Right:** Fluctuations of OPEC net oil export revenues since 1972 (U.S. Energy Information Administration)

#### **OPEC Net Oil Export Revenues**









#### **Results**

- First comprehensive Energy plan in nation's history
- U.S. imports of foreign oil drops from 8.5 million barrels/day in 1977 to 6.5 million in 1981
- "Stagflation" continues as a result of inflation and high unemployment impacted by rising fuel costs
- Conservation and use of renewable energy introduced to mainstream society

**Left:** Photograph of Jimmy Carter in the White House Library during a Televised Fireside Chat on Energy, 2/2/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 173549)



#### **Civics Connections**

- How effective were the three branches of government in working together to solve this crisis?
- 2. How would you define the relationship between our nation's domestic and foreign policies?

**Clockwise from top:** Supreme Court Building (National Archives Identifier: <u>594954</u>) The United States Capitol, 1/15/1977 (National Archives Identifier: <u>6384310</u>) The White House, 1/15/1977 (National Archives Identifier: <u>6384319</u>)





### **Further Inquiry**

#### Additional Primary Sources to Investigate

The Record of Jimmy Carter (National Archives Identifier: 143373)

Briefing Material on National Energy Plan, 10/19/1977 (National Archives Identifier: 142736)

Codification of Presidential Proclamations and Executive Orders on Energy (NARA)

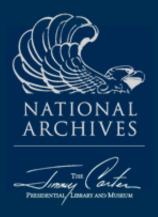
<u>Camp David Accords Research Resources (Carter Library)</u>

The DOCUMERICA Photography Project: Searching for the Seventies (NARA Google Arts & Culture Exhibit)

President Carter's Fireside Chat on Energy (C-SPAN)

Carter's "Malaise Speech" (American Presidency Project)

### **Further Inquiry**



#### **Primary Document Analysis Exercise**

- Review the presentation and select two different types of primary sources to further investigate.
- 2. Download and complete the appropriate <u>Document Analysis</u> <u>Worksheets</u> for your primary sources; it's okay if your sources cannot provide answers for every question.
- What connections can you draw between the historical significance of these primary sources and current events? Your answers are not limited to energy or environmental issues.